

TESTIMONY ON SB 310

AN ACT REQUIRING THE COMMISSIONER OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES TO SUBMIT A REPORT ON CASEWORKER RETENTION AND PERMANENCY OUTCOMES.

via email to kidtestimony@cga.ct.gov

By: **Caron Quantick**

Adoptive Parent, Foster Parent, Teacher

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Dear Chairman Anwar, Chairwoman Linehan, Vice Chairwoman Welander, Ranking Member Senator Kelly, Ranking Member Representative Dauphinais, and Distinguished Members of the Connecticut General Assembly Children Committee:

I am writing on behalf of Fostering the Community and myself to testify in strong support of SB 310. Thank you for allowing me to participate in the important discussion of this bill.

I am one of the founding members of Fostering the Community. One of our main objectives upon forming our non-profit organization was to improve the permanency of children in care and their overall experience in the system. We have found one of the main barriers to permanency for kids in care is the turnover of social workers in the foster care system. When new social workers are brought onto a case, they often playing catch up with the case. The foster parents are having to work even harder to get visits established, information to all parties, etc. I believe the only way an organization can improve is if they are reflective upon their own practices and making changes for improvement. We believe this Act would require The Department of Children and Families to keep track of their statistics in this area and develop a plan for improvement. Why wouldn't the Department want to make improvements within their agency? There is no doubt social worker turnover is going to delay permanency for the child so the least the Department can do is track this information and develop ways to mitigate any impact on the children. Not only would tracking this data positively impact the children in care, but the social workers themselves. This would be a way in which the Department could reflect upon their turnover and possibly why social workers are moving and/or leaving their positions. Reflective practice is essential to growth and progress. This Act would require such reflection for the Department of Children and Families.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and for your consideration.

Caron Quantick